

PATENT
016295.0693

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Pham, Mahn Hung

Serial No.: 09/950,026

Filed: September 10, 2001

Invention: Computer System with Improved
Error Detection

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Group No.: 2113

Examiner: Yolanda Wilson

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**DECLARATION OF DALE DUTY
SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.131**

I, Dale Duty, hereby declare and state that:

1. I am a Senior Patent Paralegal at Dell Inc. ("Dell"), and I am responsible for the administration of Dell's invention disclosure program. I am knowledgeable about the system that Dell has in place for receiving invention disclosures from Dell inventors, approving an invention disclosure for the preparation of a patent application, and the assignment of an approved invention disclosure to outside counsel for the preparation of a patent application.

2. A redacted copy of a Dell invention disclosure is attached to this Declaration as Exhibit A. This invention disclosure has been titled "Stamping Information Electronically Inside Failed Memory Module" and has been assigned Dell reference number DC-3106. As indicated by the date-stamp in the upper right hand corner, this invention

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disclosure was received by Dell's invention disclosure system on April 6, 2001. This invention was submitted by inventor Manh Hung Pham.

3. On May 7, 2001, the DC-3106 invention disclosure was approved by Dell for the preparation of a patent application. On May 18, 2001, the invention disclosure was submitted by Dell to the law firm Baker Botts L.L.P. for the preparation of a patent application.

4. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true. I declare that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements, and the like so made, are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001, Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signed this 30th day of July, 2004.



Dale Duty

Exhibit A

DELL CONFIDENTIAL**DC-03106**

Received: April 06, 2001

INVENTION DISCLOSURE FORM
(Rev. 11/01/2000)**INVENTION TITLE:****Stamping information electronically inside failed memory module****INVENTOR INFORMATION:**
(Must be filled out completely)

Employee No.	20315	Full Name	MANH HUNG PHAM
Phone No.		Cell Phone No.	512-728-4513
Reporting Director	Dick Hunter	Reporting Admin	AFC General Admin
Reporting VP	Dick Hunter	Reporting Admin	AFC General Admin
Indicate if inventor is a Dell employee or a contractor or consultant			
Are you a contractor or consultant?	Yes	Indicate if inventor is a Dell employee or a contractor or consultant	

DEVELOPMENT PARTNER/CONSULTANT:

Has the invention been developed in conjunction with a development partner or consultant that can be named?	No
If yes, please list below:	

PLEASE DO NOT SKIP THIS PART. This information is used to determine Dell's legal rights in the invention. **IMPORTANT!** - If you know for a fact that your idea was embodied in a product offered for sale or used by Dell more than a year ago, then please tell us now; otherwise you will have to refund your invention award to the company at a later date.

FIRST DISCLOSURE, USE OR OFFER OF SALE OF THE INVENTION:

Date of first disclosure	11/2000	Location of first disclosure	
Date of first offer for sale		Location of first offer for sale	
Date of first use in commerce	TBD	Location of first use in commerce	
Has the invention been disclosed to any third party?	No		
Has the invention been used in commerce?	No		
Has the invention been offered for sale?	N/A		
Has the invention been sold?	TBD		
Has the invention been used in a product?	TBD		
Has the invention been used in a service?	TBD		

INDUSTRY STANDARDS / STANDARDS COMMITTEES:

Has this invention been developed in accordance with any industry standard?	No
Which standard?	
Name of standard committee	
Is Dell a member of this standard committee?	N/A
Name of Dell representative to the standard committee	

COMPLETE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION:

Prepare a written description of your invention using the outline below. Just fill in the blank after each topic. Adjust the amount of space for each topic as needed. Be sure to include any sketches, diagrams, flow charts, drawings, etc. which will aid in understanding the invention.

a) THE PROBLEM

Give the ability to the host computer to record and to check the failure condition and environment of its own memory module(s). It also allows the repair center and the manufacturer to have the trace ability and the failure condition of each individual failed memory module once it arrives to them, even the case that all paperwork is lost.

b) THE PRIOR METHODS/APPARATUS USED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

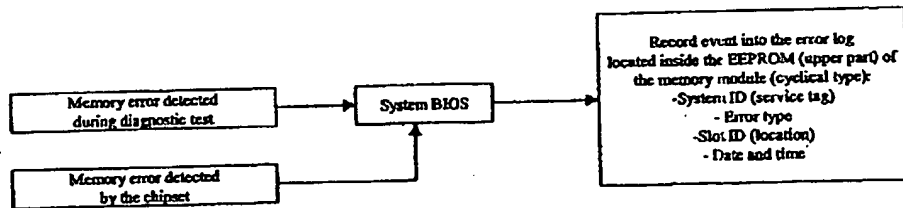
The closest way to solve this type of problem on failed memory module is a written tag issued with each failed unit. The closest similar technology on recording electronically the fail log is used on hard drive. In this particular case, the fail log is written in a reserved location.

c) YOUR PROPOSAL TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM

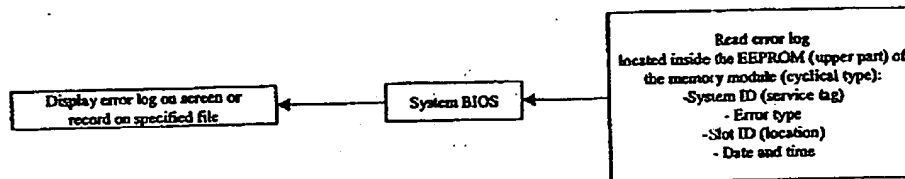
- Up to now, all memory errors messages, location and system environment are displayed on the screen, and some time, recorded on the non-volatile memory of the motherboard. On this proposal, the information will be recorded on the un-used portion of the non-volatile memory of the memory module in cyclical log form. The host computer can access to this log to create, update or read the information via BIOS commands.
- In this proposal, each failed module will now have its own individual log that is part of the hardware. The failure information and condition will stay internally with the module almost permanently until it is erased or over-written by a host computer, a tester or a device that can access to the non-volatile memory device (EEPROM). The host system can now use the log to verify the condition of the memory module on each bring up. The memory module manufacturer now can use the log in complement with the existing tagging system to study the failure mode.
- With this proposal, DELL will have the advantage on time reduction during trouble shooting and replacement of failed memory modules, a better way to document the failure on the manufacturing line. In the field, this proposal will help to reduce the number of unnecessary dispatches, a better diagnostic tool and a complement to the existing way to document failure at customer site.

d) DRAWING, SKETCH

Error recorded into the log inside the EEPROM of the memory module



Read back the log inside the EEPROM of the memory module (if available)



WITNESSES: (Please list two Dell witnesses below.)

Each witness should at least read about and understand the invention. The best witnesses will also have observed the invention in actual operation.

WITNESS: Ray Rashid

WITNESS: Greg Knight